

Supporting Statement A
30 CFR 250, Subpart B, Plans and Information
OMB Control Number 1014-NEW

Terms of Clearance None

General Instructions

A completed Supporting Statement A must accompany each request for approval of a collection of information. The Supporting Statement must be prepared in the format described below, and must contain the information specified below. If an item is not applicable, provide a brief explanation. When the question, "Does this information collection request (ICR) contain surveys, censuses, or employ statistical methods?" is checked "Yes," then a Supporting Statement B must be completed. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reserves the right to require the submission of additional information with respect to any request for approval.

Specific Instructions

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection.

To accommodate the split of regulations from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement to BSEE (76 FR 64432), BSEE is requesting OMB approval of the already approved information collections that were previously under 1010-0151 to reflect BSEE's new 1014 numbering system. This ICR does not change the burden hours or make any other modifications to what was previously approved, other than to remove the collections under the purview of BOEM.

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*, and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to prescribe rules and regulations necessary for the administration of the leasing provisions of that act related to mineral resources on the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease, right-of-use and easement, or unit.

The Independent Offices Appropriations Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-133, 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996), and OMB Circular A-25, authorize Federal agencies to recover the full cost of services that confer special benefits. Under the Department of the Interior's implementing policy, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is required to charge fees for services that provide special benefits or privileges to an identifiable non-Federal recipient above and beyond those which accrue to the public at large. Deepwater Operations Plans are subject to cost recovery, and BSEE regulations specify a service fee for this request.

Regulations implementing these responsibilities are under 30 CFR Part 250, Subpart B, and are among those delegated to BSEE. This request also covers the related Notices to Lessees and Operators (NTLs) that BSEE issues to clarify, supplement, or provide additional guidance on some aspects of our regulations.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new

collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection. Be specific. If this collection is a form or a questionnaire, every question needs to be justified.

BSEE analyzes and evaluates the information and data collected under subpart B to ensure that planned operations are safe; will not adversely affect the marine, coastal, or human environment; and will conserve the resources of the OCS. We use the information to make an informed decision on whether to approve the proposed deepwater operations plans, or whether modifications are necessary without the analysis and evaluation of the required information.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden and specifically how this collection meets GPEA requirements.

Currently, 90 percent of all information is submitted electronically. However, because of the various types of information submitted with the plans (drawings, spreadsheets, etc.), some of the submissions may not readily lend itself to electronic commerce. In some instances, paper copies of the non-proprietary information submitted in the plans and accompanying information may continue to be necessary for review by States, local governments, and the public.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

The information collected is unique to the proposed operations. If information has already been submitted and is readily available to BSEE, respondents may simply reference the earlier submission. If changes to plans are necessary or required, only information related to the required changes must be resubmitted.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

This collection of information could have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities. Any direct effects primarily impact the OCS lessees and operators. However, many of the OCS lessees and operators have less than 500 employees and are considered small businesses as defined by the Small Business Administration. The information contained in a DWOP is necessary for our approval of industry's deepwater drilling, and as such, we cannot reduce the burden.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If BSEE did not collect the information, we could not carry out the mandate of the OCS Lands Act, as amended, that specifies that exploration, development, or production activities on the OCS may not be conducted until comprehensive plans are submitted and approved. Extensive data and information are necessary to make informed decisions on whether to approve these plans or require appropriate changes. The information is dependent only upon the activities of the respondents, therefore, the frequency of collection is not applicable nor an issue.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

(a) requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;

Not applicable in this collection.

(b) requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;

Not applicable in this collection.

(c) requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;

Not applicable in this collection.

(d) requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than 3 years;

It is also necessary that respondents retain data and information longer than 3 years. Much of the supporting information is to be retained for the duration of the project. However, this type of information is such that respondents would be very unlikely to dispose of it sooner. It contains valuable background data and analyses that they would not want to have to duplicate should it be needed during the life of the development and production project. We consider the burden only to make the information available to BSEE if necessary.

(e) in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;

Not applicable in this collection.

(f) requiring the use of statistical data classification that has been reviewed and approved by OMB;

Not applicable in this collection.

(g) that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or

This collection does not include a pledge of confidentiality not supported by statute or regulation.

(h) requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information, unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

This collection does not require proprietary, trade secret, or other confidential information not protected by agency procedures.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice [and in response to the PRA statement associated with the collection over the past 3 years] and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

As required in 5 CFR 1320.8(d), BSEE provided a 60-day notice in the *Federal Register* on July 6, 2011 (76 FR 39419). Also, 30 CFR 250.199 and the Paperwork Reduction Act explain that BSEE will accept comments at any time on the information collected and the burden. We received two comments in response to the *Federal Register* notice. The first comment, from the Marine Mammal Commission, supported our request to OMB. Another commenter requested that we should state that we are not submitting any ICRs for seismic regulations that are more stringent than current regulations, including NTL 2007-G02.

We believe that this comment is not germane to current BSEE regulatory requirements because when BOEMRE split into the new bureaus of BOEM and BSEE, the regulatory requirements pertaining to seismic requirements are now under BOEM purview. Nonetheless, we agree with BOEM's response that the public will be given the opportunity to comment on modifications made to any information collections as a result of changes to NTL 2007-G02 and 30 CFR 250, subpart B regulations. BOEM's actual reply was:

Response: For the renewal of this ICR, we are not requesting anything more stringent than in current NTL 2007-G02 and 30 CFR 250, subpart B regulations, which are covered under OMB Control Number 1010-0151. We have no plans, at this time, to change the content of or the resultant burdens imposed by NTL 2007-G02. Therefore, BOEMRE should move forward with the required information collection to ensure compliance with OMB deadlines. If the lawsuit settlement or resulting decree requires changes to the NTL and/or DOI regulations, information collection coordination and OMB approval will occur before any NTL is reissued or regulations are promulgated.

During the comment period, we requested input from several respondents on the input to the availability of data, frequency of collection, clarity of instructions, and elements being collected. The burden estimates in Section A.12 reflect their input. The following respondents that commented were:

Judy Archer, Regulatory Coordinator, (713) 659-1222, Walter Oil and Gas Corporation, 1100 Louisiana Street, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77002-5299

Cheryl Powell, Regulatory Supervisor, (713) 296-6811, Apache Corporation,

2000 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 100, Houston, TX 77056

Susan Wilson, Regulatory Coordinator, (713) 599-6349, BHP Billiton Petroleum (GOM) Inc.,
1360 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 150, Houston, TX 77056-3020

Bryan Chapman, Senior Regulatory Specialist, (281) 654-1941, ExxonMobil Corporation,
PO Box 4778, Houston, TX 77210

Gregory D. Roland, Regulatory Compliance Area Manager, (713) 808-2881, Petrobras America Inc.,
10350 Richmond Ave., Suite 1400, Houston, TX 77042

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

BSEE will not provide payment or gifts to respondents in this collection.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

BSEE will protect information considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2); also under regulations at 30 CFR 250.197, *Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection*, and 30 CFR part 252, *Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Information Program*.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

The collection does not include sensitive or private questions.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

(a) Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.

(b) If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.

Potential respondents include Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulphur lessees and operators. It should be noted that not all of the potential respondents will submit information in any given year and some may submit multiple times. The burden estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the

collection of information. Submissions are generally on occasion, and responses are mandatory or are required to obtain or retain a benefit. We estimate the total annual burden is 18,256 hours.

BURDEN BREAKDOWN

Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart B and NTLs	Reporting & Recordkeeping Requirement	Hour Burden	Average No. of Annual Responses Annual	Burden Hours
		Non-Hour Cost Burdens*		
201; 204; 205	General requirements for plans and information; service fees; confirmations; etc.	Burden included with specific requirements below.		0
Post-Approval Requirements for the EP, DPP, and DOCD				
282	Retain monitoring data/information; upon request, make available to BSEE.	4	300 records	1,200
	Submit monitoring plan for approval	2	12 plans	24
282(b)	Submit monitoring reports and data.	3	24 reports	72
Subtotal			336 responses	1,296 hours
Submit DWOPs and Conceptual Plans				
287; 291; 292	Submit DWOP and accompanying/supporting information.	750	12 plans	9,000
		\$3,336 x 12 = \$40,032		
288; 289	Submit a Conceptual Plan for approval.	200	8 plans	1,600
294	Submit a combined Conceptual Plan/DWOP for approval before deadline for submitting Conceptual Plan.	950	3 plans	2,850
295	Submit a revised Conceptual Plan or DWOP for approval within 60-day of material change.	100	35 plan revisions	3,500
Subtotal			58 responses	16,950 hours
			\$40,032 non-hour costs	
200 thru 295	General departure and alternative compliance requests not specifically covered elsewhere in subpart B regulations.	2	5 requests	10
Subtotal			5 responses	10 hours
TOTAL BURDEN			399 Responses	18,256 Hours
			\$40,032 Non-Hour Cost Burdens	

* The non-hour cost burden that is associated with cost recovery money collected is based on actual submittals through Pay.gov for FY 2010.

(c) Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should be included under “annual Cost to the Federal Government.”

The average respondent cost is \$85*/hour (rounded). This cost is broken out in the below table using the Bureau of Labor Statistics data for the Houston, TX area. See BLS website:

<http://www.bls.gov/bls/wages.htm>.

Position	Level	Hourly Pay rate (\$/hour)	Hourly rate including benefits	Percent of time spent on	Weighted Average
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		estimate)	(1.4** x \$/hour)	collection	(\$/hour)
Secretaries and Administrative assistants	6	\$21	\$29	15%	\$4
Petroleum Engineers, Geologists	All Workers	\$68	\$95	70%	\$67
Supv. Engineer	All Workers	\$68	\$95	15%	\$14
Weighted Average (\$/hour)					\$85

* Note that this BLS source reflects their last update from December 2009.

** A multiplier of 1.4 (as implied by BLS news release USDL 12-1124, June 7, 2012 (see <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>)) was added for benefits.

Based on a cost factor of \$85 per hour, we estimate the hour burden as a dollar equivalent is \$1,551,760 (\$85 x 18,256 hours = \$1,551,760).

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual non-hour cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflect in Item 12).

(a) The cost estimate should be split into two components: (1) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (2) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information (including filing fees paid for form processing). Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.

(b) If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burden and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.

(c) Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

We have identified one non-hour cost associated with this IC; DWOP's (\$3,336) under § 250.292, and estimate that the annual total non-hour cost burden is \$40,032. We have not identified any other non-hour cost burdens associated with this collection of information.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

The average Federal cost is \$60/hour. This cost is broken out in the below table using the current Office of Personnel Management salary data for the REST OF THE UNITED STATES (<http://www.opm.gov/oaca/12tables/>).

Position	Grade	Hourly Pay rate (\$/hour estimate)	Hourly rate including benefits (1.5 x \$/hour)	Percent of time spent on collection	Weighted Average (\$/hour)
Clerical	GS-7/5	\$21	\$32	15%	\$5
Regulatory	GS-12/5	\$37	\$56	35%	\$20
Engineers/Geologists	GS-13/5	\$44	\$66	40%	\$26
Supv. Petroleum Engineer	GS-15/5	\$62	\$93	10%	\$9
Weighted Average (\$/hour)					\$60

*A multiplier of 1.5 (as implied by BLS news release USDL 12-1124 June 7, 2012 (see <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>)) was added for benefits.

To analyze and review the information required by subpart B and related NTLs, we estimate the Government will spend an average of approximately 1/4 hour for each hour spent by respondents for a total of 4,564 hours (18,256 divided by 4 = 4,564). Based on a cost factor of \$60 per hour, the total cost to the Government is \$273,840 (18,256 / 4 = 4,564 x \$60 = \$273,840).

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments in hour or cost burden.

To accommodate the split of regulations from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement to BSEE (76 FR 64432), BSEE is requesting OMB approval of the already approved information collections that were previously under 1010-0151 to reflect BSEE’s new 1014 numbering system. This ICR does not change the burden hours or make any other modifications to what was previously approved, other than to remove the collections under the purview of BOEM. The collections transferred to BSEE represent a program change of 18,256 burden hours and \$40,032 non-hour cost burdens.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

BSEE will not tabulate or publish the data.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

BSEE will display the OMB control number and approval expiration date.

18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement identified in, “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.”

To the extent that the topics apply to this collection of information, we are not making any exceptions to the “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.”

